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1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	
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4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	: 11 CR 259
5		:
6	-against-	:
7	agamot	United States Courthouse Brooklyn, New York
8	GAVRIEL BIDANY,	:
9	Defendant.	May 5, 2011 : 9:00 o'clock a.m.
10	DOT GIIddire.	X
11		X
12	TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL BEFORE THE HONORABLE RAMON E. REYES, JR.	
13	UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE	
14	APPEARANCES:	
15	For the Government:	LORETTA E. LYNCH United States Attorney
16		BY: DAVID SARRATT LISA KRAMER
17		Assistant United States Attorneys 271 Cadman Plaza East
18		Brooklyn, New York
19	For the Defendant:	CALL DIENENEELD ECO
20	For the Defendant:	SAUL BIENENFELD, ESQ. 26 Broadway
21		New York, NY 10004
22	Court Reporter:	Gene Rudolph
23		225 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, New York
24	(718) 613-2538	
25	Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript produced by computer-aided transcription.	

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197
1
              THE COURT: Are we ready? Let's continue.
 2
              MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you, Your Honor.
 3
              Your Honor, I have one request; that is, that you
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    take judicial notice of the bond conditions in this case.
5
              THE COURT: For what purpose?
 6
              MR. BIENENFELD: I would plan on using it in my
7
    closing argument. The fact that the defendant was able to go
8
    to Israel and come back while out on bail to face these
9
    charges out of the jurisdiction, I plan on using that in
10
    closing argument as further evidence of his character.
11
              THE COURT: All right.
12
              MR. BIENENFELD: Okay.
13
              THE COURT: Any objection?
14
              MR. SARRATT: No, Your Honor.
15
              THE COURT: Okay. Do you have any further
16
    witnesses?
17
              MR. BIENENFELD: The defense rests.
18
              THE COURT: Okay. Rebuttal case?
19
              MR. BIENENFELD: One second.
20
              MR. SARRATT: We have a matter that was, I believe,
21
    a translation error from yesterday that we want to correct for
22
    the record.
23
              MR. BIENENFELD: Yes, Your Honor.
24
              I believe that there was a -- there was -- my client
25
    testified in Hebrew correctly. However, when it was
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198 1 translated, it was translated that he was in charge of 130 2 soldiers, 130 troops or people. I don't remember. THE COURT: I remember. 3 4 MR. BIENENFELD: You remember. That's not correct. He was responsible for the 5 6 food, the technical equipment, the uniforms, the tents, the 7 ordinances for 130 people. He was the support service for 130 8 people, not that he was a commander of 130 people. 9 THE COURT: Okay. 10 MR. BIENENFELD: The interpreter did make a mistake there, although he did testify correctly in Hebrew. 11 12 Agreed, Mr. Sarratt? 13 MR. SARRATT: Yes. 14 THE COURT: Okay. We will let the record reflect that. 15 16 MR. BIENENFELD: Now we rest. 17 THE COURT: Okay. Rebuttal case? 18 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, one witness. 19 The government calls Task Force Officer Derek Martinez. 20 21 THE COURT: Officer Martinez, please raise your 22 right hand. 23 (The witness is duly sworn/affirmed by the Court.) 24 THE COURT: Please be seated. 25 Please state and spell your name for the record.

Martinez - direct - Sarratt 199 1 THE WITNESS: My name is Derek Martinez, D E R E K, 2 MARTINEZ. DIRECT EXAMINATION 3 BY MR. SARRATT: 4 Q 5 Good morning, sir. 6 Α Good morning. 7 Q Mr. Martinez, how are you employed? 8 Α I'm currently employed as a federal air marshal. 9 Q What's your current assignment? 10 Α Currently assigned as the Task Force Officer to the FBI. 11 Q Where with the FBI are you working? 12 I am currently working at JFK Airport. Α 13 How long have you been assigned to the Task Force office Q 14 at JFK Airport with the FBI? 15 Α I have been assigned there since January of 2010. 16 Were you working on March 27, 2011? 17 I was originally not scheduled to work but I was called 18 in. 19 Q Why did you come to work? 20 I was called in by Special Agent Janet Ambrisco to 21 respond to a Delta Airlines flight that had arrived at JFK. 22 So you did report to work then after you received that call? 23 24 That is correct, sir.

25 Q What did you do once you got to work?

Α

200 Martinez - direct - Sarratt When I arrived, I arrived at terminal four, JFK Airport. 1 2 I met with Special Agent Janet Ambrisco, who then informed me 3 of the events that had transpired on Delta 269. Then we 4 conducted two interviews and that was it. Did you have occasion then to interview the defendant on 5 Q this day? 6 7 Α Yes. 8 Now, before you interviewed the defendant, did you speak Q with any of the flight attendants from that flight? 9 10 Α No. sir. 11 Q So you didn't speak with Christine Ferro? 12 Α No, sir. 13 Q And you didn't speak with Aviel Silber? 14 Α No, sir. 15 Q Had you reviewed any reports about statements made by the 16 flight attendants? 17 Α No, sir. 18 Q Why were you interviewing the defendant? 19 Α I -- rephrase the question. 20 Why was I interviewing him? 21 Did you understand him to be the subject of the 22 investigation? 23 Α Yes, I did. 24 I was interviewing him to determine what exactly 25 happened on the aircraft.

Martinez - direct - Sarratt 201 Before you interviewed him, did you identify yourself as 1 Q 2 law enforcement? 3 Yes, I did. 4 Q Did you show him your credentials? Yes, I did. 5 Α 6 Q Do your credentials say you are with the FBI? 7 Α Yes, they do. 8 Did you ask the defendant if he was willing to speak to Q 9 you? 10 Α Yes, I did. 11 Q About how long would you say this interview lasted? 12 Approximately 15 minutes; ten or 15 minutes. Α 13 Q You asked him a number of questions? 14 Α Yes. 15 Questions about who he was? Q 16 Α Yes. 17 Q Did you ask him questions about who he was? 18 Α Yes. Did you ask him whether he was willing to speak to you 19 20 voluntarily? 21 Yes. Α 22 Q What was his response? 23 Α He was willing to speak. 24 Q I believe you asked -- I believe I was asking you a 25 moment ago, you asked him a number of questions.

Martinez - direct - Sarratt 202 Did you also ask him about his background? 1 2 Can you be a little more specific in regards to his 3 background? 4 Did you ask him about his personal background, where he lives? 5 Yes, I did. 6 Α 7 Were you asking this directly in English or were using an 8 interpreter? 9 I was speaking in English through the use of a Hebrew 10 interpreter, CBP officer that was present. 11 Q Were his answers --12 THE COURT: Try to slow down a little bit. 13 THE WITNESS: Okay. 14 CBP stands for Customs and Border Protection. 15 Q Through the use of the interpreter, were you able to 16 communicate with him then? 17 Yes, I was able to communicate with him. When you asked a question, were his answers generally 18 Q responsive? 19 20 Α Yes. 21 Did you ask the defendant whether he touched the victim 22 in this case inappropriately? 23 Α Yes. 24 If you remember, what question exactly did you ask him? Q 25 I asked him whether or not he touched the female who Α

Martinez - direct - Sarratt 203 1 alleged this in her private parts. 2 Q What was his response? 3 Α He said it may have been possible if he was sleeping. 4 Q It may have been possible if he was sleeping? Yes, sir. 5 Α 6 Q Did you view that answer as responsive to your question? 7 Α No, I did not. 8 Q So what did you do next? 9 Α I repeated the same question. 10 Q Again, what question did you ask him? I asked him whether or not he touched the female who 11 12 alleged the crime in her private parts, sir. 13 Q What was his response? 14 His response was the same. He said that it may have been 15 possible if he was sleeping. 16 Did you view that answer as responsive to your question? 17 Α No, I did not, sir. 18 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry. The interpret missed 19 the last response of the witness. 20 THE WITNESS: No, I did not. 21 Q So what did you do next? 22 Α I then repeated the question a third time. 23 Q What question exactly did you ask? 24 I asked him, did he touch the female who alleged the 25 crime in her private parts.

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Martinez - direct - Sarratt
                                                                 204
         What was his response that time?
1
    Q
 2
    Α
         His response was the same.
 3
    Q
         What was that response?
 4
    Α
         He stated that it may have been possible if he was
    sleeping.
 5
 6
    Q
         What did you do next?
7
         At that point I -- through the use of the Hebrew
8
    interpreter, I told the defendant specifically, yes or no, did
9
    you or did you not touch the female in her private parts.
10
    Q
         What was his response?
         At that point he said no.
11
12
         Officer Martinez, throughout the course of your interview
13
    with the defendant, was there any other question that you had
14
    to repeat?
         No, sir.
15
    Α
16
         Did he give you a direct response to all of your other
17
    questions?
18
         In -- besides the question that we've already discussed?
19
    Yes, sir.
              MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Officer Martinez.
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21
               (Continued on next page.)
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25
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GR OCR CM CRR CSR

Martinez - cross - Bienenfeld 205 CROSS-EXAMINATION 1 2 BY MR. BIENENFELD: 3 Q Good morning, officer. 4 Α Good morning, sir. Q You said you conducted two interviews. 5 Who was the other interview with? 6 7 I shouldn't say conducted. I was present at two -- I Α 8 conducted one interview. I was present at another interview, 9 sir. Who was the other interviewer? 10 Q 11 The defendant -- excuse me. The victim, Bat-El Lechtman. Α 12 Was that interview conducted in English? Q 13 Α Yes, it was. 14 Q You heard her answers when she was being questioned? Yes, I did. 15 Α 16 She was questioned about what happened in this case? Q 17 Α Yes, sir. She was questioned about how she was positioned while she 18 Q was seated in this case? 19 20 I don't recall specifically if she was questioned on how 21 she was seated. 22 Do you remember that when she was answering the questions Q that she said that she was covered with a blanket? 23 24 I do remember her saying that she had a blanket, yes, sir. 25

206 Martinez - cross - Bienenfeld THE INTERPRETER: That she had a what? 1 2 THE WITNESS: Blanket covered, yes. 3 Do you remember her saying that she laid her hand down on 4 a tray table and covered her body and head with a blanket and fell asleep? 5 6 I don't remember her saying the tray table, sir. 7 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter apologizes but 8 the words are being swallowed and they are too fast and I am 9 unable to get every word. 10 THE WITNESS: Okay. 11 I don't remember her stating that she put her head 12 on a tray table. 13 MR. BIENENFELD: Can I use the Elmo, Judge? 14 THE COURT: Please. Q Are you familiar with what a 302 is? 15 16 Yes, sir. 17 Q It is a report that summarizes what happens in a case? 18 Α It is a report that summarizes an interview, is what it 19 does. Did you have an occasion to review a 302 of the interview 20 21 conducted of Bat-El Lechtman? 22 Yes, I did, sir. 23 Did it accurately reflect what happened during the 24 interview? To the best of my recollection, yes, sir. 25

Martinez - cross - Bienenfeld 207 Would it refresh your recollection whether the 1 Q 2 defendant -- I'm sorry -- withdrawn. 3 Would it refresh your recollection whether Bat-El 4 Lechtman said she laid her head down on her tray table, covered her body and head with a blanket and fell asleep if 5 6 you saw the 302? 7 Would it refresh my recollection as to whether or not I 8 heard it, sir? 9 Q Yes. 10 Is that your question? Α Q 11 Yes. 12 Α It may. 13 Q Of course I am so technically -- thank you. 14 THE COURT: The witness can see it. 15 MR. BIENENFELD: Okay. 16 THE WITNESS: Yes. 17 Q In the third paragraph, the last sentence, do you see 18 that? 19 Α I can't see the bottom of the third paragraph. I'm sorry. The second paragraph. 20 Q 21 Α Okay. 22 In the last sentence. Q 23 Α Yes, I can see the second paragraph -- the last sentence 24 in the second paragraph. 25 Q Does that refresh your recollection that during her

- 1 interview she said she laid her head down on her tray table,
- 2 covered her body and head with a blanket and fell asleep?
- 3 A It's there, but it doesn't refresh my recollection.
- 4 Q So the 302 does not refresh your recollection as to the
- 5 events?
- 6 A I cannot sit here on the stand and say definitively that
- 7 I remember her saying she laid her head down on a table.
- 8 Q But you can sit here definitively on the stand and 9 remember saying you are --
- 10 THE INTERPRETER: Slow down.
- 11 Q You can sit here definitively and say you can remember 12 asking the defendant a question three times?
- 13 A That is correct, sir.
- 14 Actually, I was present at the interview of
- 15 Ms. Lechtman but I conducted the interview of the defendant.
- 16 Q Do you remember Ms. Lechtman saying that she awoke to
- 17 | feel a hand rubbing and massaging her groin area?
- 18 A Yes, sir.
- 19 Q Do you remember she said that she jumped back and that
- 20 | the defendant also jumped back and moved his hand from her
- 21 | groin area?
- 22 A I do remember her saying that she woke up. I am not sure
- 23 | if I remember her saying the word jumped but I do remember her
- 24 | saying she woke up startled and the same thing for the
- 25 defendant.

Martinez - cross - Bienenfeld 209 1 Do you remember using the word massaging her groin area? Q 2 Α Yes. 3 Do you remember her using the word rubbing her groin 4 area? Yes, I do. 5 Α 6 Do you remember her telling you that after this she Q 7 returned her head to the tray table and again covered herself with a blanket? 8 9 That -- the portion of the tray table I don't recall at 10 during the interview at this point. Do you remember that she said that afterwards a hand 11 12 grabbed her breast and started massaging them? 13 I do remember her saying that, that he grabbed her 14 breast, yes, sir. Q And she said breasts in plural, correct? 15 Breast, breasts. I really couldn't say. 16 17 If you look at the 302 and look at the third paragraph 18 and read that third paragraph to yourself. 19 Does that refresh your recollection that she said hand grabbed her breasts, plural, and started massaging them 20 21 plural? 22 It doesn't -- I can't say whether or not she said breast 23 or breasts. 24 Q Your name appears at the bottom of this 302, correct? 25 That is correct, sir.

Martinez - cross - Bienenfeld 210 Why? 1 Q 2 Α Could you rephrase the question, please? 3 Q Why is your name on the report? 4 Α I was present during the interview. 5 Q Who wrote your name on the report? 6 Α Special Agent Janet Ambrisco. 7 When was the last time before today you saw this report? Q I saw it this morning. 8 Α Now, on direct examination you testified that you were 9 Q 10 interviewing the defendant, correct? 11 That is correct. 12 Was the purpose of that interview to get a confession? Q 13 Α No, sir. 14 You asked him whether he touched the passenger three times, right? 15 16 I didn't ask him whether he touched the passenger three 17 times. I asked him if he touched the passenger three separate 18 times in regards to the question, not whether he touched her 19 physically three times. 20 You asked the defendant if he touched her 21 inappropriately, correct? 22 That is correct. 23 Q And he answered you and you weren't satisfied with that 24 answer as responsive, correct? 25 He didn't answer the question, sir.

Martinez - cross - Bienenfeld 211 1 He gave you an answer but you weren't satisfied with the Q 2 answer, correct? 3 He gave me an answer, yes, sir. 4 Q So you asked him again and you thought it was 5 nonresponsive, correct? 6 Α That is correct. 7 Then you asked him a third time and you thought his Q 8 answer was nonresponsive, correct? 9 Α That is correct. 10 Q You really wanted a confession from him, didn't you? That is not correct. 11 12 By him saying that it may have been possible if he was 13 sleeping, that you didn't think that was a good enough 14 confession, correct? I didn't think it answered my question. 15 Α 16 Asking somebody if they touched somebody 17 inappropriately -- what was your exact question? 18 Α My exact question was, did he touch the female who 19 alleged in her private parts. 20 Q He answers you, it may have been possible if he was 21 sleeping? 22 I've already answered that question. Can you go ahead 23 and --24 You wanted a yes or no answer to that question, right? Q

25

Excuse me, sir?

Martinez - cross - Bienenfeld 212 1 Q You wanted a yes or no answer? 2 I wanted -- I asked him a question. The response would 3 have been yes or no. 4 Q Did you consider may have been possible if he was sleeping as no? 5 6 Α No, I did not. 7 Q Why not? Because he didn't say no. 8 9 Q So you asked him three times because you really wanted a 10 confession, right? I asked him three times because he didn't answer the 11 12 question. 13 Q You speak Hebrew? 14 Α No, I do not, sir. Do you understand Hebrew? 15 Q 16 Α No, I do not, sir. Have you ever been around Hebrew speaking people? 17 Q 18 Α Not that I can recall. 19 You had to be 100 percent reliant on the interpreter at 20 this interview, correct? 21 Α That is correct. What is the Investigative Data Warehouse? 22 Q 23 Your Honor, may I confer with my partner? I am not an 24 FBI employee. I don't know if I can discuss FBI databases.

GR OCR CM CRR CSR

Investigative Data Warehouse is an FBI database.

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Martinez - cross - Bienenfeld 213 Did you run a check in that database of Gavriel Bidany? 1 Q 2 Α I did not personally run the check, no, sir. 3 Q Did you ask somebody to run a check? 4 Α A check was conducted. What were the results? 5 Q 6 Α I believe they were negative. 7 Q How many records are in the database? 8 I don't know. I don't control the database. I have no 9 idea. 10 Q Did they ever teach you about this in FBI school? 11 I didn't attend FBI school, sir. 12 Did they ever teach this in the government agencies that 13 you have attended? 14 I had taken a course in regards to the database, yes, sir. 15 16 Do you know that there are over 500 million records in 17 the database? 18 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I am not sure of the 19 relevance of this. 20 THE COURT: Neither am I. 21 But go ahead. 22 I am not aware, no, sir. 23 Q Did you fill out another 302 with a description of what 24 Gavriel Bidany looked like? 25 I am not sure if I actually typed that 302 but I am aware

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Martinez - cross - Bienenfeld
                                                                  214
    of the 302 you are referencing.
1
 2
          It is a description of his weight, his hair, correct?
    Q
         Yes, sir.
 3
    Α
 4
    Q
         Okay. Then there is an indication there of facial hair,
    correct?
 5
 6
    Α
         I believe so, yes, sir.
7
         Do you know what you wrote?
    Q
8
    Α
         Yes.
9
    Q
         What did you write?
         I can't even claim I wrote it. I know it is on the form.
10
    Α
11
         What's on the form?
    Q
         It says none, sir.
12
    Α
13
    Q
         Does Gavriel Bidany have facial hair?
14
         Yes, sir.
    Α
15
         The form is wrong?
    Q
16
         There is a typographical error, yes, sir.
    Α
17
         The form is wrong?
    Q
18
    Α
         Yes, sir.
19
               MR. BIENENFELD:
                                Thank you.
20
               THE WITNESS: No problem, sir.
21
               MR. SARRATT: Briefly, Your Honor.
22
               (Continued on next page.)
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Martinez - redirect - Sarratt 215 REDIRECT EXAMINATION 1 2 BY MR. SARRATT: 3 Officer Martinez, do you recall me asking you questions 4 on direct examination about an interview you conducted with the defendant? 5 6 Α Yes, sir. 7 Was the defendant under arrest at that point? Q No, sir. 8 Α 9 At that point did you tell the defendant he was under arrest? 10 11 No, sir. 12 Did you yourself know whether the defendant would be 13 arrested or not? 14 Α No, sir. Is it often the case that in airline assault cases the 15 16 defendant does not get arrested? 17 MR. BIENENFELD: Objection. 18 THE COURT: Sustained. 19 Have you participated in investigations involving 20 incidents on airlines in which a defendant -- in which a 21 subject was not arrested? 22 MR. BIENENFELD: Objection. THE COURT: Sustained. 23 24 Q Officer Martinez, are you aware of who makes the decision 25 about whether a defendant in this circumstance will be

Martinez - redirect - Sarratt 216 1 arrested? 2 MR. BIENENFELD: Objection. THE COURT: Overruled. 3 4 Α Repeat the question, sir. Are you aware of who makes the decision in this 5 Q 6 circumstance of whether or not a subject will be arrested? 7 Yes, I am aware. Α 8 Who makes that decision? 9 Α The US Attorney's Office. 10 Q When you interviewed the defendant, where were you 11 exactly? I was inside terminal four. I can't recall the exact 12 13 gate. I was inside the jet bridge, the walkway I guess you 14 can say, coming off the aircraft. At that point are you aware of whether the defendant had 15 Q been admitted into the United States or not? 16 17 At that point he had not been admitted into the United 18 States. 19 So he was still in the international area of the 20 terminal, is that right? 21 That is correct. 22 Officer Martinez, did you have authority to arrest the 23 defendant there in the international area of the terminal? 24 MR. BIENENFELD: Objection. 25 THE COURT: Overruled.

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Martinez - recross - Bienenfeld
                                                                  217
         At that present location, sir?
1
    Α
 2
    Q
         Yes.
 3
    Α
         No.
 4
    Q
         Officer Martinez, you did later arrest the defendant, is
    that right?
 5
         That is correct.
 6
    Α
         About how long later do you think that was?
 7
    Q
8
         After I conducted the interview?
    Α
9
    Q
         Yes.
         Approximately say about two-and-a-half hours later.
10
    Α
11
               MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Officer Martinez.
12
               I have no further questions.
13
              MR. BIENENFELD: May I confer with my client for one
14
    second?
              THE COURT: Go ahead.
15
16
               (Pause.)
17
    RECROSS-EXAMINATION
18
    BY MR. BIENENFELD:
19
         Officer Martinez, you testified that you used an
20
    interpreter from CBP, correct?
21
    Α
         Yes, sir.
22
         Did you also use Aviel Silber as an interpreter as well?
    Q
23
    Α
         No, sir.
24
         You never interviewed the defendant in front of Aviel
    Silber?
25
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Martinez - redirect - Sarratt
                                                                218
1
    Α
         No, sir.
 2
              MR. BIENENFELD: Nothing further.
 3
              MR. SARRATT: One or two, maybe; probably two.
 4
    REDIRECT EXAMINATION
    BY MR. SARRATT.
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 6
    ()
         Officer Martinez, are you aware of anyone else who was a
    law enforcement officer that interviewed the defendant with
7
8
    Aviel Silber serving as an interpreter?
9
    Α
         No, sir.
10
              MR. SARRATT: Okay. No further questions.
11
              Thank you.
12
              THE COURT: Thank you. You are excused.
13
              (Witness excused.)
14
              THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?
              MR. SARRATT: No, Your Honor.
15
16
              The government rests.
17
              THE COURT: All right.
18
              MR. BIENENFELD: The defense rests, Your Honor.
19
              THE COURT: Okay. Let's go to closings.
              MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, may it please the Court, I
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21
    told you at the outset of this case that the government would
22
    prove the defendant brazenly assaulted a young woman aboard an
23
    aircraft and, I submit, that is exactly what we have proved.
24
              At least twice the defendant reached over from
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    underneath his blanket and touched Ms. Lechtman, and it wasn't
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Summation - Sarratt

just touching. The defendant was actively massaging Ms. Lechtman's groin and grabbing her breast. Make no mistake about it, he was doing this intentionally and for his own gratification.

You heard Ms. Lechtman testify that over the course of the flight the defendant was consistently encroaching on Being aware that the defendant's religious beliefs prevented contact with women, Ms. Lechtman tried her best to be respectful of the defendant and avoid contact with him.

At one point, Your Honor, you heard that the defendant, appearing to sleep, had his hand resting fully on Ms. Lechtman's seat. Ms. Lechtman testified that she tried to use a pillow to create a buffer between her thigh and the defendant and that she tried to nudge his hand away. time, she used more and more force, trying to use her pillow to get him to move his hand.

But she didn't jump to any conclusion here. Even when the defendant had his hand resting on her seat and he was rubbing her leg with his leg, she didn't jump to a conclusion.

Ms. Lechtman tried to go to sleep as best she could, struggling to get comfortable in the little space that was left for her in her seat. And, Your Honor, after she had finally fallen asleep with her head resting on the tray table in front of her, she awoke to realize that the defendant's hand was between her legs. Your Honor, you heard clear

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Summation - Sarratt

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testimony that the defendant was not keeping his hand still, as would someone who was asleep. He was reaching over and actively massaging her groin area.

As she came to and realized what was going on, she was startled and jumped up from underneath her blankets underneath which she had been sleeping, and when she did so the defendant also startled. He quickly pulled his hand back.

You heard that the defendant then appeared to be pretending to go back to sleep, and Ms. Lechtman actually gave a poignant example here. She said the defendant looked like her seven-year old brother who has been caught playing with toys when he is supposed to be asleep. And he was pretending quickly to go back to sleep; it was clear to her that this was an act.

But what happened next, I submit, Your Honor, was truly shocking. Ms. Lechtman told you that she wanted to see if the defendant would make another move. She wanted to be absolutely sure that she was right about what the defendant was doing. She covered herself back with the blanket and seconds to a minute or two later, the defendant reached toward Ms. Lechtman again, seconds to a minute or two after he had been startled awake and jerked his hand back.

You heard clear testimony that he put his hand under her blanket and started feeling and massaging her breasts and again he was not just touching but massaging.

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Summation - Sarratt

221

Ms. Lechtman took off her blanket and she saw the defendant's eyes looking at her as he grabbed her. He was watching what he was doing. Ms. Lechtman's testimony was absolutely clear on that point. He was watching.

You heard then that Ms. Lechtman immediately confronted the defendant. She said, what are you doing? You have been touching me.

Your Honor, Ms. Lechtman's recollection of what the defendant said when she confronted him was clear. It is a mistake. I'm asleep.

He didn't say, what are you talking about. didn't say, what do you mean. He didn't say anything like that. He said, it's a mistake. He knew he was touching her and he said it's a mistake and he came immediately out with a preplanned story for how he was going to try to play this off -- I am asleep.

Your Honor, that is patently absurd. Even the defendant himself admitted that his wife of 24 years has never complained that he hits her or anything of the kind in his sleep.

Ms. Lechtman then did exactly what she should have done. She went straight to the flight crew, to explain what had happened to her, and to get as far away from this man as she could.

Your Honor, Christine Ferro, flight attendant,

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Summation - Sarratt

explained exactly what Ms. Lechtman's demeanor was like at that moment. You heard that immediately after this happened, she told Christine Ferro exactly what she told this Court, that the defendant had been touching her all over, that he had touched her between her legs and on her breasts. Christine Ferro testified that Ms. Lechtman appeared to be in a state of shock and that she was plainly upset.

That is entirely consistent, Your Honor, with how common sense would tell you a person who has just been assaulted in this way would behave.

What Ms. Lechtman told Christine Ferro about this assault was entirely consistent with what she told Your Honor yesterday.

Your Honor also heard from another flight attendant, Aviel Silber, who came back to the back of the aircraft to inform the defendant that the police would be meeting the I submit, it is significant, Your Honor, that the defendant did not show any outrage at all at that moment, Mr. Silber testified. Instead of categorically denying that he had done this, he said, it can't be. I have eleven I'm 48 years old. It was a mistake. But Silber children. testified that the defendant repeatedly acknowledged that he may have touched her during his sleep.

Aviel Silber's second conversation with the defendant, I submit, was even more revealing. The defendant

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Summation - Sarratt

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asked if he could speak to the victim so that he could try to sort this out and so that he could apologize. He said, I don't have time for such things.

We submit, Your Honor, that is exactly how common sense tells you a quilty person would behave in trying to smooth this over and dissuade Ms. Lechtman from taking this matter to the authorities. He thought he could just talk her out of this if he apologized.

But, Your Honor, the fact is here, he messed with the wrong girl. She may look young, as you saw her in court. She may be about five-foot tall and probably doesn't weigh 100 pounds. But he messed with the wrong girl. She told you how when he did this to her she felt really stupid and naive. But she wasn't going to let it go. She wasn't going to let him get away with this. She was going to stand up to this man and that took guts.

This is something, Your Honor, that no young woman would want to go through. But as Your Honor heard, Ms. Lechtman is a woman of courage. Your Honor heard how she elected to stay in the army for three extra years, how she commands 15 other soldiers, how she served in combat areas. Your Honor, we submit, she has plainly established herself as a person worthy of trust in the most serious matters.

You heard, Your Honor, how she had to go to her commanding officers in the military to explain to them what

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had happened to her in this case -- how embarrassing must that have been -- and to ask for permission to use her vacation to fly back halfway around the world to be here for this trial yesterday and today.

Is there any way she would do that if she thought this was some sort of mistake? No, Your Honor, no.

All the other testimony you heard in this case, Your Honor, from the government's witnesses, is precisely consistent with what Ms. Lechtman told you, from Christine Ferro's description of Ms. Lechtman's demeanor to Aviel Silber's description of the defendant's demeanor when he had been caught and what he said. He was withdrawn into his thoughts, looking for ways to smooth this over.

Now let me just say a few words about the credibility of the witnesses here and, in particular, about the testimony of the defendant.

Your Honor heard the testimony on cross-examination and time after time the defendant was unable to answer even simple questions with a straight answer. Did you claim to make money in the United States while you were asking for bail? Do you get paid for your counseling services? How do you support yourself? Are you concerned if you are convicted you won't be allowed to enter the United States? Did you ask to have your seat reassigned once you got on the flight? Could you see through the blanket?

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Summation - Sarratt

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The defendant couldn't give a straight answer to any of those straight questions.

The defendant also asked multiple times to have questions repeated. You never thought you might be able to trade seats with someone? Do you normally sleep during the day? That's a perfectly clear question, do you normally sleep during the day.

Yet, Your Honor, the defendant had no trouble answering questions posed by his own lawyer.

Your Honor heard this morning from Task Force Officer Martinez that the defendant did the same thing when he was interviewed by the FBI after the flight landed. answered all the questions. He gave straight answers to all the questions. Except for the one that married.

You heard, Your Honor, that three times the defendant said that it was possible he touched her while he was sleeping. What's interesting about that, Your Honor, is that two other witnesses in this case heard the defendant say almost exactly the same thing. Ms. Lechtman told you that the defendant said, it's a mistake. I am asleep. And Aviel Silber told you that the defendant said if he touched her maybe it happened while I was asleep.

Yet, remarkably, Your Honor, the defendant himself denies that he ever said that. He would have this Court to believe that all three of those witnesses just independently

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Summation - Sarratt

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made up something he said. And yet, they all three, without speaking to each other, came up with exactly the same statement.

Now that we are in court, the defendant claims it was Ms. Lechtman who asked him, are you telling me this is a But Mr. Silber, a native Hebrew speaker, didn't say anything like that. And Mr. Silber, Your Honor, has no interest in this case. He is a flight attendant. He has no bias whatsoever. He has no connection to the defendant or to Ms. Lechtman.

The defendant's story here, Your Honor, just isn't Indeed, it was notable that the defendant denied credible. ever even talking to Mr. Silber in the back of the airplane.

Yet, Your Honor heard Mr. Silber's testimony. His recall was precise. He told you that the defendant mentioned that he has eleven kids -- true -- that he was 48 years old.

Now, Mr. Bidany admitted yesterday on cross-examination that he told Mr. Silber that he was 48 years old, even though by my count Mr. Bidany is 47. He's given a birth date in 1963, August.

That was remarkable for two reasons. First, Mr. Silber remembered the details exactly right, eleven kids and he told him 48 years old. Second, why did the defendant give him the wrong age? Was he trying to seem older than he is, like he was the kind of person who wouldn't do this?

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The defendant also made a comment about how when this happened he couldn't just sit there without taking any Yet, Mr. Silber's description of the defendant's demeanor as he approached him there in the back of the plane was again very clear. He seemed absorbed in his own thoughts. He was just standing there in the back of the plane.

Your Honor, the defendant's story about sleeping doesn't make any sense either. We submit, Your Honor, this is very much an evolving story.

The defendant first stated on direct examination that he sleeps only three to four hours a night. cross-examination he admitted that he operated and functioned normally on that amount of sleep. He said he eventually didn't normally sleep during the day.

Yet, suddenly on redirect he remembered that he had missed his normal nap before the flight that evening, and that he had stayed up, quote, half the night on Friday night, the night before.

But, Your Honor, this is a person who says he only sleeps three to four hours a night. If that's true, he's up half the night every night. I guess he's trying to explain how he fell into such a deep sleep twice on this flight or maybe why his sleep could have been so deep that he didn't notice he was touching Ms. Lechtman.

Yet, Your Honor, in the 24 years he has been

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Summation - Sarratt

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married, as I said, his wife has never told him anything about him groping around in his sleep.

Again, Your Honor, the defendant's story just doesn't make sense.

The defendant also gave this very strange answer about him only doing a quarter turn in his seat toward Ms. Lechtman. He said that he was being careful because he was afraid of making a mistake.

Does that kind of precision sound believable from a guy who claims that he entered into two periods of deep sleep on this flight? Was he sleeping deeply or was he measuring his turning radius?

The defendant's testimony again, Your Honor, it simply doesn't make sense.

But, I submit, Your Honor, it is as to the crucial moments in this case that the defendant's testimony really falls apart. The defendant says that he awoke to Ms. Lechtman asking him, is it a mistake? Are you telling me this was a mistake?

Yet, who was Ms. Lechtman supposed to be responding Under the defendant's version of events, he hadn't even said anything up to this point. Are we supposed to believe, Your Honor, that he was not only assaulting Ms. Lechtman in his sleep but that he was talking to her as well?

In stark contrast to that, Your Honor, what

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Summation - Bienenfeld

Ms. Lechtman told you on the witness stand was crystal clear. 1 2 She answered the questions that were put to her by both sides 3 directly. The defendant didn't just put his hands on her. 4 was massaging her groin. And then grabbing her breasts, he was trying to take advantage of her at a time when he thought 5 6 she was asleep. When he reached over to grab her breasts, it was only a few seconds after he had just jerked his hand back 7 8 and startled when she woke. 9 Your Honor, the most powerful testimony of all is 10 that he was watching. He wasn't asleep at all. He was 11 watching, watching her while he did this. 12 THE INTERPRETER: What was the last word? 13 MR. SARRATT: Watching her as he did this. 14 As I said at the beginning of the case, Your Honor, the evidence in this case leaves no doubt that what 15 16 Ms. Lechtman says is true -- the defendant knowingly and 17 intentionally assaulted her on that flight from Tel Aviv. 18 I ask the Court to hold the defendant accountable for his actions. 19 20 Thank you. 21 MR. BIENENFELD: Good morning, Your Honor. 22 Upon graduating law school, I interviewed in many 23 firms and government jobs, including Legal Aid. I remember

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that on my final interview with the then heard of Legal Aid

Robert Baum, Mr. Baum asked me the following question:

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Summation - Bienenfeld

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Who do you think is the hardest client to represent? I answered him, the innocent one.

He looked puzzled at me and said, what are you talking about? I meant a murderer, a rapist, a child molester -- which one of those do you think is the hardest?

Again I said, the innocent client and explained that in my opinion if you defend anyone who you believe is quilty and win an acquittal, you walk out of the courtroom feeling proud and happy. You served justice. You defended the constitution. If you defend a guilty person and lose, well, you walk out of the courtroom sad but in the back of your mind you think to yourself, well, at least justice was served.

However, when you defend a person you truly believe is innocent, you stop to sleep at night. You lay awake thinking about the awesome responsibility of someone's potential freedom and liberty is in your hands. You work 24/7 on that case because losing is just not an option. told Mr. Baum, is the hardest client to represent.

Your Honor, today I have the privilege as well as the awesome responsibility to represent a man who I suggest that you can conclude is that innocent man, a man who is well respected in his community, whose mission in life is to help others, a charitable man who can either be found studying in school, working at a soup kitchen as a volunteer or meeting other individuals who seek his guidance and who respect him.

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You heard two versions of what happened in this case, Bat-El Lechtman's version and the defendant, Rabbi Gavriel Bidany's version. Rabbi Bidany was subject to cross-examination by the US Attorney and nothing in that cross-examination can possibly lead you to believe that he was anything but truthful in his testimony.

There are no independent witnesses in this case. There are no other witnesses, passengers or flight attendants who came here and testified that they saw the defendant assault Bat-El Lechtman man.

I submit to you that in a case where both the defendant and the alleged victim are credible, and you are not sure which one to believe, you have per se reasonable doubt. Here we have doubt. Do we believe the events as they were told by Ms. Lechtman or as told by Rabbi Bidany? The uncertainty of the complaining witness herself during the incident and during her testimony certainly indicates that there is reason to doubt her.

You may recall that Ms. Lechtman was not even sure if the defendant had what is called side curls or in Hebrew peyot. She told us that when describing the defendant's appearance that he had side curls but was not sure. Even based on Ms. Lechtman's testimony, she herself is not certain if Rabbi Bidany is sleeping or not when she is touched. first time it happens and she claims that she was touched in

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Summation - Bienenfeld

the groin, she has doubts as to whether he is awake or not, so much doubt that after the first alleged touching, she does not scream, does not push her call button, does not elbow the person next to her to repel him, does not get out of her seat to go to the bathroom, does not attempt to wake the man sitting next to her. She does nothing. This is a woman trained by the Israeli Defense Forces to take care of herself, to defend herself. She is in a combat unit. She is not a secretary in the army. She has self-defense training -- and she does not act at all.

Reasonable doubt, he-said-she-said.

Let's examine what she said.

She was unsure when this occurred. Yet, the complaint clearly states it occurred one-and-a-half hours into the flight. Clearly, on an 11-hour flight, that was not the testimony as to when this occurred. She is unsure. She knows she read a book, watched a movie and ate before this. I submit --

MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I deeply apologize for objecting, but I want to reiterate the objection from yesterday, which Your Honor sustained. That is an inaccurate statement of what the complaint says in this case. not say that the incident happened about an hour-and-a-half into the flight.

Thank you.

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Summation - Bienenfeld

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I apologize.

MR. BIENENFELD: I submit to you, that the time it takes to watch the movie alone is more than an hour-and-a-half.

She claims she was touched twice, and on the second touching she swore under oath she was seated straight up with a blanket covering her head. Yet, she told the FBI that she had returned her head to the tray table and again covered herself with a blanket. The sworn statement that she signed is silent about how she was seated at this time.

Her position is crucial evidence in this case because it helps in painting a picture of how he was allegedly able to touch her while keeping his hands under the blanket, over or under the armrest -- which one is it. Because one thing is for certain, the armrest was down -- through the pillow that she claims she placed as a barrier. Then she claims she placed the pillow between herself and Rabbi Bidany and then once again under the tray table and under her blanket and then on her breast. It makes a big difference if her head is down on the tray table or if she is sitting straight back, as she testified in court.

I submit to you, that if you are trying to catch a person touching you, as she claims she was doing, you would remember exactly what position you were in. You would set the trap, so to speak. Here, we have conflicting testimony as to

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Summation - Bienenfeld

how she was seated.

Her sworn statement says that she yelled at him. When she testified, she said I didn't yell at him. sternly to him. The FBI tells us that she neither yelled nor talked sternly, but rather -- withdrawn.

Which one is it, Your Honor? Is it yelling or talked sternly?

She swore here in this courtroom that after the incident she climbed over Rabbi Bidany and went to the galley.

Her sworn statement said, he then got up and moved to the rear of the plane.

The flight attendant said that when she was speaking with Ms. Lechtman, Ms. Lechtman told her that the man seated next to her ran to the back of the plane.

If she knew that -- well, she obviously didn't climb over him. He got up. It's conflicting.

While we are on the subject of Ms. Ferro's testimony, she said that she saw Ms. Lechtman run to the galley. She also said, when I questioned her about the galley, that the curtain to the galley was drawn and she could not see outside the galley. If that's the case, she could never have seen Ms. Lechtman run to the galley. Yet, she swore to that fact under oath.

Your Honor, this incident allegedly occurred March 27, 2011. Yesterday, when she testified, only 38 days

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have passed since this alleged incident. She had an opportunity to review her testimony with the Assistant U.S. Attorney the day before, to review it by email with the FBI, and still she could not get her story straight. How many times did she testify? I don't remember? I submit, that she said this more than ten times in her testimony. Contrast that with the defendant's testimony who only said I don't remember once.

The government will claim that she couldn't understand the sworn statement before she signed it and that's why there are so many contradictions between the sworn statement and what she testified to yesterday. Your Honor, she came to this country as a representative of the State of Israel. She was here to lecture to the Israeli bonds organization in English. You heard her testify. Her English is perfect. She cannot claim that I didn't understand what I was signing before I signed it.

I submit to you that as a high ranking officer in the Israeli Army in charge of so many soldiers, she is called upon many times to sign documents. I guarantee you that she reads them carefully before signing them. She had an opportunity to read the sworn statement before signing it. She had an opportunity to correct any mistakes in it. She knew the importance of that document. Yet, she never corrected it. Her testimony was one way and the sworn

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statement went another way -- reasonable doubt.

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Let's exam the absurdity of allegations here.

She claims the two of them are seated next to each other and the armrest is down. There is a pillow between the two of them. Her tray table is down and they are both covered with blankets. Certainly, both of their heads are covered with blankets. She then claims that she felt someone grabbing her groin. Interesting to note, that her sworn statement says grabbing. The complaint says groping and her testimony yesterday was massaging or touching in a circular manner. So we don't know what she is claiming.

I submit to you that it is impossible for Rabbi Bidany with his head covered by a blanket, with his back against the seat, to move his hand undetected from under his blanket to under her blanket and to get his hand between her legs while seated on the plane with a blanket over his head and her head on the tray table and a pillow blocking his access. The action itself is absurd. Remember, the armrest is down. There is a pillow protecting her side and he is supposedly able to get over or under the armrest, through the pillow from under his blanket, to under her blanket, under the tray table and going directly to her groin without disturbing any of her personal space nor any part of her physical body -- highly unlikely. And, by the way, all of this and no one sees it? Not the people seated next to them, no one

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standing at or near the galley on a crowded flight?

In any event, she claims she feels this, and what does this trained combat soldier do, this soldier with the Israeli Defense Forces, hand-to-hand combat training? Nothing, absolutely nothing. She does not confront the person, whether she believes it's accidental or not, whether she thinks he is sleeping or not. If it happened the normal reaction would be to do something, to make sure the person doing it will stop it. She does not use her call button to summons help. She does not get out of her seat in an effort to both awaken him or get away from him. Instead, she would have you believe that she pretended to be sleeping in order to catch the person doing it again.

So, again, here is another contradiction in her testimony. Thirty-eight days after the alleged incident, she can't remember what position she was seated in when this second alleged touching took place. Was her head on the tray table and she was hunched over or was she seated straight up as she told Your Honor?

In any event, now she is very awake. She is waiting for something to happen. She says she felt her blanket move and she did nothing. She felt and saw a hand move towards her breast and did nothing, felt a hand on her breast and did nothing, and then after this hand massaged her breast, that's when she claims she sternly spoke to Rabbi Bidany, not yelled,

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as her sworn statement says, but, rather, spoke sternly and asked, what are you doing.

Again, the whole scenario just does not seem logical. These seats were only steps away from the galley. Passengers are always going to the galleys to get snacks and The flight attendants hang out in the galleys. know that Christine Ferro was in the galley at this time. It's not logical to believe that a person would do this with potential witnesses only steps away on a full flight, especially, especially, Your Honor, with his head covered. Ιf you were to do this, at least be able to see if anyone is watching you. But the credible testimony here shows us that Rabbi Bidany's head was covered. It just could not have occurred in that manner.

The government desperately wants you to believe that Rabbi Bidany made some kind of admission in this case. The best that they could have come up with was they claim he said it is possible I may have touched the woman while I was sleeping. He testified that he did not say that. But, rather, I didn't touch the woman. I was sleeping.

This is a perfect example of a game of telephone or lost in translation. The Court will recall when the Assistant US Attorney asked if the blanket was translucent and Rabbi Bidany said he didn't try to look through the blanket, the reason he answered that way, and luckily for Rabbi Bidany

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he has a defense attorney that understands Hebrew and knows that the interpret used a word that also means see through, was because Rabbi Bidany thought he was being asked if he could physically see through the blanket, while in reality he was asked if the blanket was translucent or, as the definition is, allowing light, but not detailed images, to pass through.

I submit, that this is a perfect example of what happened on the flight and at the airport. Rabbi Bidany said it's not possible that he touched the woman while I was sleeping, and it got translated to, it was possible that I may have touched the woman while I was sleeping. Words in different languages have varying meanings.

Even Ms. Lechtman when describing Rabbi Bidany referred to him as conservative. I submit to you that in New York no conservative rabbi would appear as Rabbi Bidany does. In New York the terms we use are reformed, conservative, orthodox, ultra orthodox. Her use of the word conservative is simply a faulty translation of the Hebrew word she was searching for.

We even, just today, had to correct the record because there was an indication that the translator here in this case made a mistake when she said that he was in charge of 150 people. It wasn't that he was in charge of 150 people. He was in charge of the provisions for 150 people. The translator made a mistake.

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I submit to you that when Rabbi Bidany gave a statement to the FBI, that either the interpreter got it wrong when he interpreted Rabbi Bidany's words or there were two meanings to the words used by Rabbi Bidany and the interpreter chose the meaning he knew the FBI would want to hear.

There was testimony from the Delta flight attendant Silber that Rabbi Bidany did not appear nervous. He looked like he was composed and thoughtful. There is a simple explanation for that. Innocent people aren't nervous. They have no reason to be.

Although there is contradicting testimony as to who approached whom, when either Silber went to Rabbi Bidany or Rabbi Bidany went to Silber, one thing is clear. testified that Rabbi Bidany never said I touched her by He never said he touched her. If that is so, why mistake. would Bidany want to apologize for touching? Rabbi Bidany wanted to find out what she was claiming, what was her problem. He wanted to speak with her and see what she would say. Yet, Silber took the law into his own hands and forbade that action. Rabbi Bidany did not understand what happened here and wanted to talk to Bat-El Lechtman but Silber made up his own rules and that conversation never took place.

The government will say, and has said, why would she come to America, take vacation time away from the Army to falsely accuse my client? It is simple. Her lawyers in

Israel told her that she needed a conviction in this case in

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happened.

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order to pursue a civil action in Israel. These events as told by Bat-El Lechtman never

Let's examine my client's testimony now. He was positive of the events that occurred only 38 days before his He told this Court that he was on the flight and testimonv. he was very tired and after eating he went to sleep. He fell into a deep sleep and awoke to go to the bathroom. He explained that it is a Jewish ritual that upon waking the first thing you do is wash your hands. He walked around a little, and here is the only time he said I don't remember when the Assistant asked how long did you walk around for. Не then returned to his seat and fell asleep again.

The next thing he knows, the woman seated next to him is saying, you want to tell me that's a mistake? He has no idea what is going on. He uncovers his head and asks her, what mistake are you talking about? She says, you touched me and I am going to tell a flight attendant. He gets up, let's her out and now, since he had just been sleeping and it's a Jewish requirement to wash your hands, he goes to the back of the plane to wash them as well as to use the restroom.

He never touched her. He never said he touched her by mistake. It just didn't happen.

Examine who my client is. He is a well respected,

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honored and revered rabbi with a wife and eleven children, a decorated war veteran, who is twice the age of the alleged He studies Torah, volunteers in a soup kitchen, lives his life only to help other people and he does not ever expect payment for his help. Those that want to pay do, those that can't or won't don't. It's that simple.

Rabbi Bidany is a deeply religious man who lives his life in accordance with the highest Jewish ethics, which forbid casual contacts between man and woman. He testified that he maintains certain rules when he is around women. is so careful about not touching women that he never let's even a young girl touch him. When he is in a room with a woman he keeps the door open. It is not logical that a person who has lived this kind of life forever would abandon his principles and behave in such a deviant manner as he stands accused.

He was extensively cross-examined, and I submit to you that if there was any aspect of his life in the past that was even in question or was remotely related to the acts that he is accused of here, it would have been examined during cross-examination. The fact that nothing untoward was even suggested proves to this Court that Rabbi Bidany is an honest and forthright person.

You also heard from Erez Yechiel, a well-known and respected member of Rabbi Bidany's community, as well as

nature, let alone a sexual one.

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Sigalit Dor, his cousin, who was a member of his community, that the defendant has a sterling reputation as an honest man. They said that he is well respected, hard working, modest, principled, charitable, and beloved. Likewise, he is well respected here in the United States as well. His travel is sponsored by Malki Fuchs. His American friends put up his surety bonds, both in real estate as well as cash, and the courtroom is filled with his supporters. A person with those characteristics does not assault random strangers in any

On the subject of honesty and credibility and being an honorable person, let's examine the defendant's actions in this very case while out on bail. Judge Orenstein graciously allowed the defendant to travel back home to Israel for the Passover holiday and for that he is very grateful. However, there were some serious doubts in the minds of many people in the government whether or not he would return to the jurisdiction to face these charges. It is not an extraditable offense. He was given his passport back and could travel anywhere he wanted to. He returned to the comfort of his own home, to his wife and children, and yet, in spite of all, this extremely honorable person returns to New York to face a trial because he wants to clear his name. I submit to you, that those are the actions of an honest and honorable person, not a person who sexually assaults others on airplanes.

Rebuttal Summation - Sarratt 244 I submit to you that Rabbi Bidany is not guilty of 1 2 these accusations and I urge you to find him not guilty. 3 THE COURT: We are going to take a --4 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor? THE COURT: All right. 5 6 MR. SARRATT: If Your Honor was going to permit me a 7 few minutes? 8 THE COURT: I will give you what you want. 9 Go ahead. A few minutes. 10 MR. SARRATT: Five minutes would be great, Your 11 Honor. THE COURT: All right. 12 13 MR. SARRATT: Thank you. 14 (Pause.) THE COURT: All right. 15 16 MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Your Honor. 17 I want to start by addressing what Mr. Bienenfeld 18 attempted to characterize as inconsistencies in Ms. Lechtman's 19 testimony. 20 Your Honor, I submit that these inconsistencies are 21 entirely manufactured. The first one he pointed out was, was 22 she yelling or was she speaking firmly? Your Honor, that is a 23 nuanced difference, at best. Ms. Lechtman's testimony was 24 clear. She was speaking firmly. 25 But there is no difference that in any way casts

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doubt on her credibility about the difference between yelling and speaking firmly. It is not a difference that matters in any way to this case.

He has also claimed that there was an inconsistency about Ms. Lechtman's testimony about whether the defendant got up and went to the back of the plane after this happened.

First of all, Your Honor, it's undisputed he did get up and go to the back of the plane. That's what happened.

Ms. Lechtman also explained exactly how that came to be that she said that. She got up and complained to Ms. Ferro, and when she bent back to look for the defendant, she saw he was not in his seat but in the back of the plane. It was entirely reasonable for Ms. Lechtman to infer that he had gotten up and gone to the back of the plane. This is an inconsistency that simply does not exist.

The defendant also tried to create an inconsistency between terminology. He said, was the defendant groping, was he grabbing, was he massaging, as if those words mean something different in this case. They don't.

He also tried to make an inconsistency about the way Ms. Lechtman said she was seated. Her testimony on this point was precise. She fell asleep with her head on the tray table. Then after, she was awoken, she covered herself back and she was sitting straight up.

The fact that in a report written by someone else of

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Rebuttal Summation - Sarratt

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an interview with her wrote down that she put her head back on the tray table in no way casts doubt on Ms. Lechtman's credibility. Her testimony here was clear and her memory was clear.

Your Honor, I just want to make a crucial fact in this case very clear. Ms. Lechtman has never said anything different than the fact that the defendant touched her groin, that he jumped back, that he jerked his hand back, and then a very short time later he touched her breasts and that he was moving his hand when he did and that he was watching it. There is no inconsistency whatsoever in the victim's testimony on the crucial facts of this case.

Mr. Bienenfeld also attempted to suggest that the victim somehow didn't believe that the defendant was invading her personal space prior to the time that this happened. simply is not what she said. She gave clear testimony that throughout the flight he had been steadily invading her space, that he first leaned towards her, that he then had his hand resting on her seat, that he then was rubbing her leg with his leg, and all of this, Your Honor, all of this, didn't cause Ms. Lechtman to jump to the conclusion that she was being Rather, she gave the defendant the benefit of the doubt, particularly given his religious background. She gave him the benefit of the doubt, until it was absolutely clear that this was intentional, that this was an assault, and that

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Rebuttal Summation - Sarratt

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he was purposely gratifying himself by touching her.

Mr. Bienenfeld struggled to come up with a motive for Ms. Lechtman to give false testimony here. But, Your Honor, that simply makes no sense. Why would she lie? Mr. Bienenfeld attempted to suggest that this was perhaps because she wants money, perhaps that's how this whole thing came about. She wants to pursue a civil suit when she gets back to Israel.

Your Honor, she was candid with the Court in saying that she has considered bringing a lawsuit in Israel. She has not decided whether she will bring one; but given what the defendant did to her, it's not all surprising that she is considering all of her options, including bringing charges in Israel.

Your Honor, it was a tremendous inconvenience for Ms. Lechtman to have to travel back from Israel, to interrupt her military duties and to go to her commanding officers and seek permission to come back here. It is not at all surprising that she first wanted to see if there might be something she could do in Israel. And Ms. Lechtman told you exactly what she wanted to see out of this case; she wanted to see that justice was done.

Contrast that with the defendant's possible motives to lie in this case, about whether he was concerned for his reputation, about whether he was concerned about being able to

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Rebuttal Summation - Sarratt

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come back to the United States. He just wouldn't give a straight answer to those questions.

But, Your Honor, I just want to urge the Court to consider what it is the defendant is suggesting when he argues that Ms. Lechtman is doing this for money. How could that come about? She gets on a plane, traveling here with other officers, to go around and give speeches at events and schools and dinners, and she sits down next to a middle aged, conservative religious man, who by his own admission has very little money. And she says to herself, hey, finally, I have a great idea for getting rich. I have a way to make money. am going to accuse this man of touching my groin and my breasts and then I'll pretend to be upset and run to the flight attendant and then hopefully they'll give me a business class seat and then later, if I am able to bring suit against him, perhaps I'll get paid.

Really? Your Honor, that is simply absurd. That is simply absurd.

Mr. Bienenfeld also made several arguments about the government attempting to put forward an admission by the defendant in this case that he did this. And, I submit, Your Honor, that's not at all what the government has done. The government has attempted to put on testimony about precisely what the defendant said after these events happened and we put on three witnesses who told you exactly that.

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Ms. Lechtman told you what he said. Aviel Silber told you what he said. Officer Martinez told you what he said.

But, Your Honor, none of those witnesses said that the defendant came out and admitted this. None of those witnesses said that.

What the witnesses said though was exactly the same thing. The defendant suggesting to Your Honor that perhaps three people got this wrong, in exactly the same way, that doesn't make sense.

He's also tried to suggest that perhaps this was all lost in the translation. This is a translation problem.

But, Your Honor, the conversation with Aviel Silber leaves no room for doubt on that point. Aviel Silber testified yesterday, he grew up in Israel. The man speaks four languages, but Hebrew, Hebrew is his first language. He has no problem speaking in Hebrew. In fact, that's part of his job for Delta Airlines, is to be on flights with Hebrew speakers and translate.

And the conversation that Mr. Silber had with Mr. Bidany was in Hebrew. That was the point of Mr. Silber coming to the back of the airplane, to speak in Hebrew.

There is no translation error, Your Honor. simply doesn't hold up.

I believe the defense counsel also suggested that

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thing go away before that flight landed.

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Rebuttal Summation - Sarratt

the defendant never told Mr. Silber that he wanted to apologize. Mr. Silber's testimony on that point was clear. That is exactly what Mr. Silber heard him say and that's exactly why the defendant approached Mr. Silber. He wanted to He wanted to talk to her. He wanted to use his apologize. skills as a counselor to try to smooth this over and make this

Now, the defendant's central contention in this case has been that he was asleep, that he was asleep and that the next thing he knew he woke up to Ms. Lechtman yelling at him.

Your Honor, if these were the random reaches of a sleeping man, why is it that his hands were moving? If these were the random reaches of a sleeping man, why is it that the defendant had such perfect accuracy, two times in a row, in reaching Ms. Lechtman's private areas?

Is that a coincidence?

That doesn't make any sense, Your Honor.

Now, the defendant also suggested that Ms. Lechtman can't be believed because she should have complained sooner. She should have gone to the flight attendant immediately or perhaps Mr. Bienenfeld suggested that Ms. Lechtman is to be faulted for not using her defense training somehow right there on the airplane to assault Mr. Bidany back, that she is a trained fighter. She should have just taken matters into her own hands.

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We submit, Your Honor, Ms. Lechtman acted perfectly reasonably and with remarkable poise in what she did here. Despite the defendant's consistent invasions of her space, she did not jump to a conclusion. She was aware of and respectful of his religious beliefs and she was asleep on that plane and she awoke to find the man next to her, to her shock, massaging and rubbing her groin. But she wanted to make absolutely sure, Your Honor. It was perfectly clear to her, even at that point, what an important matter this was. She wanted to make sure that she was right. And she was.

It was only seconds to a minute or two later that the defendant reached over again. This time he grabbed her chest. He was grabbing her breasts for a matter of seconds before she stood up and immediately confronted him.

Now, Your Honor, the defendant also tried to suggest that Ms. Lechtman couldn't be believed because she didn't have a precise recall of the timing of these events. Your Honor, I submit, the questions that Ms. Lechtman was asked at that point when Your Honor sustained an objection were misstating what was in the criminal complaint in this case. So the Court should disregard that issue.

But you also heard the defendant yesterday when he had a couple of chances to answer questions about the precise timing of when these events happened on the aircraft, he didn't know either. That's because nobody would. Passengers

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on an airplane, particularly when they don't know an extremely significant event is about to happen, don't keep a log of what time their dinner arrived, what time they fell asleep, what time they woke up, what time they went to the bathroom. That's not the way people act on airplanes.

But you also heard other testimony about the way people act on airplanes and it was very clear. Your Honor, Ms. Ferro testified that she has been on more than a thousand flights. More than a thousand in her almost nine years as a flight attendant and she has never heard anything like this.

Your Honor, we submit that the defense argument in this case is simply preposterous. People do not assault other people on airplanes while they are asleep. Sleeping people do not reach over to the passenger next to them and grab their groin and then, by coincidence, grab their other private areas only a moment later. That is not consistent with the defense position, that the defendant was asleep in this case.

Your Honor, I just want to end with what I think are the absolutely clear points in this case that make it beyond a doubt that the defendant committed this crime.

You heard testimony from Ms. Lechtman that when she looked at him a second time his eyes were open.

Your Honor, he had been startled only a moment before and he jerked his hand back.

Your Honor, his hand wasn't still as a sleeping

Rebuttal Summation - Sarratt 253 person's would be. It was moving. 1 2 If he was asleep, why, Your Honor, why did he touch 3 only in those moments her groin and then her breasts? 4 Your Honor, the evidence in this case leads to one conclusion, and that is, that the defendant intentionally 5 6 assaulted Ms. Lechtman on that plane, and I again ask 7 respectfully that the Court hold the defendant accountable for 8 his actions. 9 Thank you. 10 THE COURT: All right. We are going to take a 11 recess until 2:00 o'clock when I expect to render a verdict. I will see you at 2:00 o'clock. 12 13 MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you, Judge. 14 MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Your Honor. 15 (Recess taken as indicated.) 16 (Continued on next page.) 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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AFTERNOON

SESSION.

THE COURT: Is there anything else before I render a verdict?

MR. SARRATT: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

MR. BIENENFELD: Just if you want the defendant to stand.

THE COURT: He can remain seated.

MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you.

THE COURT: Having weighed the testimony of the witnesses and the exhibits received into evidence, I find beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Gavriel Bidany, is guilty of assaulting Bat-El Lechtman in violation of 18 USC Section 133(A)(5) and 49 USC Section 46506(1).

Ms. Lechtman's testimony that Rabbi Bidany unlawfully touched her groin and breasts, or breast, on March 27, 2011 on Delta Airlines flight 269 from Tel Aviv, Israel to New York City, is compelling and wholly believable. The purported inconsistencies between her testimony in court and her various statements to law enforcement officers are immaterial, even if they exist at all. Also, I do not find any reason to discredit Ms. Lechtman's testimony based on the argument that she has a motive to make a false allegation against Rabbi Bidany. Most importantly, Ms. Lechtman's testimony is entirely consistent with the testimony of the two disinterested witnesses, Mr. Silber and Ms. Ferro; which

stands in stark contrast to Rabbi Bidany's testimony, which is different than every witness who testified at trial, even on insignificant and immaterial details.

Finally, I find Rabbi Bidany's testimony to not be worthy of belief in light of his inability to provide simple answers to simple questions, as noted by the prosecutor. I do not believe that Rabbi Bidany's failure to do so is attributable to interpretation problems. Despite a few mistakes, the interpreters appear to have done a fine job in this case.

In all, there is no question in my mind that the events transpired as Ms. Lechtman contends, and, therefore, I find that Rabbi Bidany is guilty.

Mr. Sarratt, you wanted to say something?
MR. SARRATT: Yes, Your Honor.

Having reviewed the provisions of Title 18

USC Section 3143, which is the statute that governs after a defendant has been convicted for the time waiting sentence, I believe that that provision may not apply because this is a Class B misdemeanor and, therefore, the guidelines, the Sentencing Guidelines under Section 1B1.9 do not make any recommendation to Your Honor as to what the appropriate sentence should be.

Section 3143 appears to apply the standard of and places the burden on the defendant of putting forth clear and

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convincing evidence that he would continue to appear for the sentence.

So I think that heightened standard does not apply here, but that the ordinary standard under Section 3142 does apply.

Mr. Bidany is obviously a citizen of Israel and has minimal ties to the United States, and although Mr. Bidany was granted bail pending -- while he stood accused of these charges, he now stands convicted, the government simply respectfully submits that makes an enormous difference and would ask that he be taken into custody.

THE COURT: Counselor?

MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, I ask that my client remain out on bond. His passport has been surrendered. is no way he can leave the country. He is on home monitoring here and there is a half a million dollars bond on him.

The sentencing in other cases in this district have been quite light. I haven't seen any jail sentencing, quite frankly, in this district, in the Eastern District, cases of similar facts and similar matters and the similar statutes as well. So I haven't seen any jail time. So I am asking to these let him remain out on bond pending your sentencing.

THE COURT: Let's table the issue of remand for a moment. Let's talk about sentencing.

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In Class B misdemeanor cases I don't think a

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257 1 presentence report is mandated. It says that the statute, if 2 I am correct, 18 USC 3401(c) says I may direct Probation to 3 prepare a presentence report as long as the district judge 4 agrees with that. What is the government's position or Rabbi Bidany's 5 6 position on whether I need a presentence report? 7 MR. SARRATT: If I may just have one moment, Your 8 Honor? 9 THE COURT: Sure. 10 (Pause.) MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, the government would 11 12 request a presentence report, if --13 MR. BIENENFELD: I don't think it is necessary. 14 believe that Rabbi Bidany would like to be sentenced. If the 15 sentence is a sentence of probation, perhaps we could discuss 16 how we could do probation at home. He would like to go back 17 home, if that's possible. 18 So I would like not to delay that. I know the 19 presentence report would take at least six weeks, from my 20 experience, and I don't think that a case like this requires a 21 six-week wait for a sentencing. 22 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, we defer to your 23 discretion on that matter.

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THE COURT: Putting aside a presentence report, would the government like to submit a letter brief or letter

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    submission on sentencing?
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              MR. SARRATT: We would, Your Honor.
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              Thank you.
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              THE COURT: How soon could you do that?
              MR. SARRATT: As soon as Your Honor asks for it.
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              THE COURT: You give me some guidance.
              MR. SARRATT: Monday or Tuesday, Your Honor, we
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    could submit something.
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              THE COURT: How long do you need to respond?
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              MR. BIENENFELD: A day.
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              THE COURT:
                          Okay.
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              I am not going to ask for a presentence report from
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    Probation.
                I will entertain the government's letter on
14
    Monday, May 9th. I would like to see Rabbi Bidany's response
    on Tuesday, May 10th; and sentencing will be set for Thursday,
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16
    May 12th, at 11:00 am.
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              In the interim, given the short period of time
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    Rabbi Bidany will remain on bail, current conditions as set by
19
    Judge Orenstein, I guess originally set by Judge Go and then
    modified by judge Orenstein.
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              So there you have it.
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              MR. BIENENFELD: May 12, what time?
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              THE COURT: 11:00 am.
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              MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you.
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              MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, just so it is clear, Judge
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MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, would you consider exonerating the 250,000 cash portion of the bail and just remaining with the bond portion for the real estate? THE COURT: No. MR. BIENENFELD: Okay. THE COURT: Anything else? MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: Thank you. (Matter concludes.)

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